

Claims

1. Ball-and-socket joint, intended particularly for motor vehicles, having a joint pin provided with a joint ball (1.1), a plastic joint housing (2) into which is inserted a bearing shell (3) for the rotatable and to a limited extent tiltable support of the joint ball (1.1), and a metal ring (6) to positively lock the bearing shell (2) [sic] within the joint housing (3) [sic], characterized in that, the metal ring (4) is embedded in the joint housing (2) and has a radially inwardly bent end segment (4.3) located in the area of the opening in the joint housing (2) that is provided for the passage of the joint pin (1).
2. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the metal ring (4) at its end that is extrusion-coated with the material of the joint housing (2) is provided with a radially outwardly angled flange (4.2).
3. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the flange (4.2) protrudes at an approximately 90° angle from a cylindrical center part (4.1) of the metal ring (4).
4. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that the inside diameter of the cylindrical center part (4.1) of the metal ring (4) approximately corresponds to the outside diameter of the bearing shell (3).
5. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the cylindrical center part (4.1) of the metal ring (4) ends approximately in the area of the ball equator (Ä) of the joint housing (2).

6. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 5~~,  
characterized in that the bearing shell (3) in its pin-side area is provided  
with slits (3.1) reaching up to the area of the ball equator (Ä).
7. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 6~~,  
characterized in that the bearing shell (3) in its head-side area facing away  
from the joint pin (1) is provided with indentations (3.2) extending parallel to  
the joint axis (L).
8. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in ~~Claims 6 and 7~~, characterized in that the  
slits (3.1) and indentations (3.2) are formed in the bearing shell (3) so as to  
be mutually offset in circumferential direction.
9. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 8~~,  
characterized in that the joint housing (2) in the area of its opening is  
provided with a ring groove (2.1) to fix the ball-side end of a sealing bellows  
(5).
10. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 9~~,  
characterized in that the joint housing (2) is made of plastic as one piece  
together with a chassis strut by injection molding.

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